

HR 1639

Military Health Services Improvement Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 14, 2005

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (May 6, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/1639>

Sponsor

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Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** House

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Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Apr 27, 2005
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Rep. Herseeth, Stephanie [D-SD-At Large]	D · SD		May 12, 2005
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI-2]	D · WI		May 17, 2005

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]	D · CA		May 17, 2005
Rep. Tierney, John F. [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Jun 16, 2005
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jun 20, 2005
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Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Apr 6, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	May 6, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Apr 14, 2005)

Military Health Services Improvement Act of 2005 - Directs the Secretary of Defense to prescribe a requirement that members of the Armed Forces: (1) deploying to a combat theater receive a pre-deployment mental health evaluation conducted by a qualified mental health professional; and (2) returning from service of more than 30 days in a combat theater, or injured in a combat theater, receive a post-deployment combat stress evaluation conducted by a qualified mental health professional.

Directs the Secretary to implement a program designed to: (1) raise awareness about mental health issues that members may encounter during and after deployment; and (2) reduce the stigma associated with mental health care.

Directs the Secretary to develop a program to improve awareness of the availability of mental health services for, and warning signs about mental health problems in, dependents of members who served or will serve in a combat theater during the previous or next 60 days. Requires such program to include a toll-free number and informational website.

Directs the Secretary: (1) and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a memorandum of understanding to improve the transition of mental health-related cases from the Department of Defense (DOD) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); (2) to create an information clearinghouse to improve the availability of information about mental health professionals who treat combat stress; and (3) to provide for the availability (for a two-year period) of mental health services under the TRICARE program (a DOD managed health care program) for reserve personnel who performed certain active duty (and their family members).

Actions Timeline

- **May 6, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Apr 14, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 14, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E671-672)
- **Apr 14, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

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